

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Shannon Lipp

**From:** Jason Wulf [Jason.Wulf@avera.org]**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 5:17 PM**To:** Shannon Lipp**Subject:** RE Rural Health Care program - request for information

SEP 25 2003

Hi,

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

For the region covered by Avera Health in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska, we have many options in some areas and no options in other areas. For the majority of our hospitals and clinics, the Internet is accessed through the corporate network. The corporate network connects to the Internet via 2 T1's at a cost of \$600.00 each. In Sioux Falls (urban city), location of the corporate office, broadband access is also available via cable modem (\$65.00 per month for 128K upload/3MB download, business class, [http://www.midcocomm.com/business\\_hsd.php](http://www.midcocomm.com/business_hsd.php)) and DSL (\$21.95 per month for 256K upload/256K download, business class [http://www.qwest.com/pcat/small\\_business/product/1,1354,536\\_3\\_3,00.html](http://www.qwest.com/pcat/small_business/product/1,1354,536_3_3,00.html))

In the rural areas, covered by Avera, some broadband is available by DSL, wireless (limited area) and cable and are provided by local small telcos and cable companies. Some examples of business class services in the rural area

Eureka, SD DSL service: <http://www.valleytel.net/FAQ/index.php?page=answer&id=17>

Up to 256KBps download / 128 upload - \$42.50 per month,

Up to 512KBps download / 256 upload - \$62.50 per month

Up to 768KBps download / 384 upload - \$82.50 per month

Miller, SD Cable Internet Service Basic Package -- \$65/month\* ,  
[http://www.midcocomm.com/business\\_hsd.php](http://www.midcocomm.com/business_hsd.php)  
Up to 5 email accounts  
128 kbps upload  
3 mbps download  
Limit of 1-3 PC's (IP Addresses)

Aberdeen, SD DSL Service BUSINESS X-STREAM (ADSL) SERVICE  
Includes One Phone Line & High-Speed DSL Internet Access For One Low Price

SPEED	MONTHLY RATE
256 Kbps	\$89.95
512 Kbps	\$109.95
1500 Kbps	\$144.95

General Area Basic Wireless. \$44.95 / month for 64K - 128K, <http://www.svtv.com/Services/Internet.html>

In our general service area, there are a variety of services, and a variety of prices for those services. Midcontinent Communications (<http://www.midcocomm.com>) provides cable Internet service in many South Dakota towns. A listing is available on their website. Qwest provides DSL only in the Urban areas at this point. DSL is available from small local telcos in a variety of SD, IA, and MN towns, but a list and pricing is not readily available.

Please let me know if this information helps or if you need more detailed data

Thanks,  
Jason Wulf  
Financial Analyst  
Avera Health

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8/19/2003

**Shannon Lipp**

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WCB 02-60

**From:** Pergerson, Larry [Larry.Pergerson@scotlandhealth.org]

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 3 52 PM

**To:** Shannon Lipp

**Subject:** RE Rural Health Care program - request for information

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area?

Only on a very limited basis in Laurinburg, North Carolina.

Cable modem - not available.

DSL - available to some limited residential areas. Availability to businesses is not consistent

Satellite - Limited

Other wireless - Limited (Cell phone)

If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem. DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?

Cable Modem - N/A

DSL - \$80.00 per month

Satellite - \$110.00 per month (up to 5 users)

Other wireless - Cell phone rates

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Shannon Lipp [mailto:Shannon.Lipp@fcc.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 3:13 PM

**Subject:** Rural Health Care program - request for information

As you know, the FCC is currently considering changes to the universal service rural health care program. We are trying to gather more data regarding the costs associated with Internet access in rural areas.

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email:

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area?

If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible

We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record.

**Shannon I. Lipp**

Federal Communications Commission

Telecommunications Access Policy Division

202-418-7954

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WCB - 02-60

**Shannon Lipp**

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**From:** Robert Shwajlyk [RShwajlyk@nlh.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 3:41 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** Internet Access

**SEP 25 2003**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

The Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville New York uses Time Warner Cable for it's internet access at a cost of \$399.25 per month for 786k speed.

The local phone company, Frontier, offers DSL as well.

Bob Shwajlyk  
Assistant Controller

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Shannon Lipp

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**From:** Cherri Colliton [ccolliton@pmhh.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2003 12:53 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp

WCB- 02-60

**Subject:** RE Rural Health Care program - request for information

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SEP 25 2003

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area? YES

If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL, Internet access, satellite or other wireless)? DSL \$200 - \$800 DOLLARS

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible

DIAL UP - \$22.00, DSL \$200.00-\$800.00, T1 - \$900.00

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Brad Wurgler  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2003 9:48 AM  
**To:** Cherri Colliton  
**Subject:** FW: Rural Health Care program - request for information

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Shannon Lipp [mailto:Shannon.Lipp@fcc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 2:13 PM  
**To:** 2emhs@memontel.net; 2nemhs@nemontel.net; Bill@thecentergb.com; DStatz@rwhc.com; Harry.Jasper@garfieldcountyphd.org; Phyllis\_Peters@doh.state.fl.us; aacton@clarion.edu; abbuhi\_pchs@gpcom.net; abeachcbh@bossig.com; abek@mgh.org; abuvalla@integra-telcom.com; abuvalla@koxlien.com; accessfh@traceroad.net; ach500@yahoo.com; acmsinc@telapex.com; acrathburn@iroquoismemorial.com; acvdc@sonline.net; adamsont@acmh.org; adena@drewmemorial.org; admin@jrhdsawson.com; admin@sekmhc.org; affores1@fairview.org; ahchospital@hotmail.com; akriska@catg.org; al\_sanders@doh.state.fl.us; alaible@bromenn.org; alan.okerson@trinityhealth.org; alewis@ssmhc.com; alfred.pablo@mail.ihs.gov; alice\_lewis@ssmhc.com; alingle@countrycliq.com; alliance@communityalliance.org; alpert.michael@mail.ihs.gov; alqi2@highland.net; alqi@highland.net; amy.alexander@excite.com; amy.ridener@promedica.org; amy@drewmemorial.org; amyfish@galaxyspc.com; anderj01@dcor.state.ga.us; andra.bez@carle.com; andymiller@riponmedicalcenter.com; aniem.hall@mail.state.ky.us; annbakken@meritcare.com; anndrayna@lakewoodhealthsystem.com; anne@hospital.ci.forks.wa.us; anton@sythc.com; arankins@uhseast.com; ashever@lourdes-pad.org; astockto@lifeskills.com; astockton@lifeskills.com; atcciceman@aol.com; aubrey.garrett@ozarkguidance.org; aurelia.taylor@access.gov; awcott@aol.com; azbillk@sirmc.org; baert@rer.jhg; bakerjb@shands.ufl.edu; bamcdp@cybrzn.com; bantainfirmar@hotmai.com; bart@pawnee.org; bbecker@lsswis.org; bbest@uog9.uog.edu; bblum@choctawnation.com; bbodenheimer@ricemedical.org; bbrennan@sfmtc-gi.org; bbuxton@memorialhealth.org; bcable@elwha.nsn.us; bcam@ppgi.org; bcarlson@medinfosystems.org; bcarnal@admtec.com; bcdoube@worldnet.att.net; bchadm@coldreams.com; bchancey@satilla.csb.state.ga.us; bcooper@alaska.net; bcraven@nshcorp.com; bcraven@nshcorp.org; bdossett@lhhs.org; bdowns@cpgh.org; beacha@columbiabasinhospital.org; belinda.blake@bannerhealth.com; beth@phoni.com; bethulschmid@meritcare.com; betsy\_wood@doh.state.fl.us; bflagg@cary.carymed.org; bgoff@cch-inc.com; bgoudreau@mshosp.org; bhansen@swhealthcare.net; bharris@chno.org; bhatch@meritcare.com; bigelod@inhs.org; bill.burns@mail.ihs.gov; bill.hartley@sih.net; billn@wtrt.net; bkde@yahoo.com; bkdonahue@portagehealth.org; blackr@clincasierravista.org; blebaron@ubmc.org; bljacob@blmhospital.com; bmccullers@utmem.edu; bmgh@the-onramp.net; bmilavi1@fairview.org; bmorean@mrhc.org; bmrhc@alltel.net; bmrhc@yahoo.com; bob.cita@searhc.org; bob.maxwell@canyonlandschc.org; bob.orrison@hservinc.org; bob.shankle@pw.amedd.army.mil;

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**Shannon Lipp**

WCB 02-60  
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**From:** Chris Gillespie [chrisgillesp@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 3:34 PM

**To:** Shannon Lipp

**Subject:** Re: Rural Health Care program - request for information

SEP 25 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

DSL, and dial up is available in Dickinson County anywhere from \$9.95/mo for dial-up to \$95.00/mo for DSL

**Shannon Lipp** <Shannon.Lipp@fcc.gov> wrote:

As you know, the FCC is currently considering changes to the universal service rural health care program. We are trying to gather more data regarding the costs associated with Internet access in rural areas.

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email:

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area?

If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible.

We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record.

**Shannon I. Lipp**

Federal Communications Commission

Telecommunications Access Policy Division

202-418-7954

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Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! SiteBuilder - Free, easy-to-use web site design software

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**Shannon Lipp**

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WCB-02-60

**From:** Len Benson [LBenson@frhs.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 4:53 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** RE: Rural Health Care program - request for information

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SEP 25 2003  
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Office of the Secretary

We are a 165 bed hospital located in a community of 24,000 population in northeast NE. Broadband service is available. We have a T1 (1.54 M) connection to the Internet. We pay \$900 per month.

Other platforms are available although we do not have current pricing.

Lennis Benson  
Faith Regional Health Services  
(402) 644-7222

-----Original Message-----

As you know, the FCC is currently considering changes to the universal service rural health care program. We are trying to gather more data regarding the costs associated with Internet access in rural areas.

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email:

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area?

If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible. We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record.

**Shannon I. Lipp**

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Shannon Lipp

**From:** Karen\_Thuli@uplandhillshealth.org**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003 11:23 AM**To:** Shannon Lipp**Subject:** Re: Rural Health Care program - request for information**RECEIVED**

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Shannon,

Yes we do have broadband access to the hospital. We currently have a T-1 line and a Charter Cable. The broadband cable is about \$140/month and the T-1 is about \$200/month.

Karen Thuli

IS Coordinator

Upland Hills Health

800 Compassion Way, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Karen\_Thuli@uplandhillshealth.org

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WCB-02-60

Shannon Lipp

**From:** Adams, Andy [aadamsm@murrayhospital.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003 4:36 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** FW: ATTN: REQUEST FOR INFO FROM FCC REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES IN THE UNIVERSAL SERVICES FOR HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

1. yes
2. just depends on the provider
  - dsl \$60 / month
  - cable modem/ \$ 45
  - Bell South T1 \$ 1000

3

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Perlow, Carol  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003 3:24 PM  
**To:** Adams, Andy  
**Subject:** FW: ATTN: REQUEST FOR INFO FROM FCC REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES IN THE UNIVERSAL SERVICES FOR HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Andy- would you please help? Thanks

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rob Sprang [mailto:rsprang@POP.UKY.EDU]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003 7:30 AM  
**To:** TELECARESC@LSV.UKY.EDU  
**Subject:** ATTN: REQUEST FOR INFO FROM FCC REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES IN THE UNIVERSAL SERVICES FOR HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

The FCC is currently considering changes to the universal service rural health care program. It is possible that there will be an expansion of coverage for Internet access, and this could have a significant impact on rural healthcare facilities across the state. Please take a moment to answer these questions for the FCC. The more respondents, the more likely we are to get it approved.

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email:

1. Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area?
  2. If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?
  3. If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible
- We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record.

**PLEASE RESPOND TO Shannon I. Lipp AT THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL**  
 Shannon.Lipp@fcc.gov

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Shannon Lipp

SEP 2 5 2003

**From:** Nancy Erickson [ERICKSON@mercyhealth.com]

**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 4 19 PM

**To:** Shannon Lipp

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**Subject:** Re Rural Health Care program - request for information

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area? Some areas, but not all

If yes, how much do **businesses** pay for service (please specify broadband

platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other

wireless)? Satellite is available for \$30 to \$44 a month for 128K for some areas

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for

each platform, if possible.

We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record.

Shannon I Lipp

Federal Communications Commission

Telecommunications Access Policy Division

202-418-7954

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Nancy Erickson

IS Department

Kossuth Regional Health Center

1515 S Phillips St

Algona, IA

515-295-4659

erickson@mercyhealth.com

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Shannon Lipp

W/C 02-60

**From:** Val Warzewick [Val\_Warzewick@ykhc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003 2:48 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** Re: Rural Health Care program - request for information

We use satellite technology - no fiber runs between us and our remote sites at this time.  
Current costs are about \$13K/month.

This is for Bethel, Alaska and our remote villages.

Val Warzewick, Acting CIO  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Phone: 907-543-6074  
Fax: 907-543-6570  
email: val\_warzewick@ykhc.org

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**Shannon Lipp**

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WC 02-60

**From:** David Bolt [dbolt@lcfhc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2003 7:01 AM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** RE: Rural Health Care program - request for information  
 Ms Lipp,

**RECEIVED**

SEP 25 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Thank you and the FCC for even considering covering Internet access cost for health care facilities

We are a Community Health Center (FQHC) located in Lewis Co., Kentucky. Lewis Co. is a large, remote rural area in Northeastern Kentucky. Broadband is available through the phone company, only in our area. Our cost is averaging about \$2500 per month. This does not include the server, tech time and other expenses associated with keeping the system operational.

With HIPAA, Medicaid mandates, etc., Internet connectivity is going to be a necessity. But, it is also an added expense that most third party insurance companies do not recognize or pay for directly.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter

**David Bolt****COO/Director of Planning and Development****Lewis Co. Primary Care Center****PO Box 550****Vanceburg, KY 41179****Phone: 606.796.0410****Fax: 606.796.3921**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Shannon Lipp [mailto:Shannon.Lipp@fcc.gov]**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 3:13 PM

**To:** 2emhs@memontel.net; 2nemhs@nemontel.net; Bill@thecentergb.com; DStatz@rwhc.com; Harry.Jasper@garfieldcountyphd.org; Phyllis\_Peters@doh.state.fl.us; aacton@clarion.edu; abbuhl\_pchs@gpcom.net; abeachcbh@bossig.com; abek@mgh.org; abuvalla@integra-telcom.com; abuvalla@koxlien.com; accessfh@traceroad.net; ach500@yahoo.com; acmsinc@telapex.com; acrathburn@iroquoismemorial.com; acvdc@conline.net; adamsont@acmh.org; adena@drewmemorial.org; admin@jrmhsdawson.com; admin@sekmhc.org; aflores1@fairview.org; ahchospital@hotmail.com; akriska@catg.org; al\_sanders@doh.state.fl.us; alaible@bromenn.org; alan.okerson@trinityhealth.org; alewis@ssmhc.com; alfred.pablo@mail.ihs.gov; alice\_lewis@ssmhc.com; alingle@countrycliq.com; alliance@communityalliance.org; alpert.michael@mail.ihs.gov; alqi2@highland.net; alqi@highland.net; amy.alexander@excite.com; amy.ridener@promedica.org; amy@drewmemorial.org; amyfish@galaxyispc.com; anderj01@dcor.state.ga.us; andra.bez@carle.com; andymiller@riponmedicalcenter.com; aniem.hall@mail.state.ky.us; annbakken@meritcare.com; anndrayna@lakewoodhealthsystem.com; anne@hospital.ci.forks.wa.us; anton@sythc.com; arankins@uhseast.com; ashever@lourdes-pad.org; astockto@lifeskills.com; astockton@lifeskills.com; atciceman@aol.com; aubrey.garrett@ozarkguidance.org; aurelia.taylor@access.gov; awcott@aol.com; azbillk@slrmc.org; baert@rer.jhg; bakerjb@shands.ufl.edu; bamcdp@cybrzn.com; bantainfirmar@hotmai.com; bart@pawnee.org; bbecker@isswis.org; bbest@uog9.uog.edu; bblum@choctawnation.com; bbodenheimer@ricemedical.org; bbrennan@srmc-gi.org; bbuxton@memorialhealth.org; bcable@elwha.nsn.us; bcam@ppgi.org; bcarlson@medinfosystems.org; bcarnal@admtec.com; bcdoube@worldnet.att.net; bchadm@coldreams.com; bchancey@satilla.csb.state.ga.us; bcooper@alaska.net; bcraven@nshcorp.com; bcraven@nshcorp.org; bdossett@lhhs.org; bdowns@cpgh.org; beacha@columbiabasinhospital.org; belinda.blake@bannerhealth.com; beth@phonl.com; bethulschmid@meritcare.com;

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8/26/2003

YVCB  
02-60

Shannon Lipp

**From:** Burnfin, Stephanie [sburnfin@saint-lukes.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003 3:59 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** Internet Access

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SEP 25 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**Sensitivity:** Confidential

In our rural community we only have dialup or wireless.

The wireless is \$40.00 a month.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Stephanie Burnfin, BSBA  
Information Systems Coordinator  
Wright Memorial Hospital  
Phone: 660-359-5621 ext 35196  
Fax: 660-359-3541  
E-mail: sburnfin@saint-lukes.org

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From: Brennan, Bill [bbrennan@sfmtc-gi.org]  
 Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 11:16 AM  
 To: Shannon Lipp  
 Subject: RE: Rural Health Care program - request for information

SEP 8 5 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Shannon this is a reply from Bill Brennan at Saint Francis Medical Center in Grand Island, NE. Here is information I have gathered on service area:

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email:

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area? Some are available. If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?

Cable modem is available is advertised in Grand Island by Charter Communications but when I went to its web site, I received a response that it was not available at our hospital's location in 68803 zip code area.

DSL Internet for a business the size of our hospital (more than 1,000 employees) would be \$125 for access a month and \$125 for the phone line per DSL connection.

Satellite Internet would be not be available without contacting a national provider and installing equipment.

Wireless Internet for a business the size of our hospital (more than 1,000 employees) would range between \$250-\$300 depending on the number of units. It would be less expensive for a smaller business.

Best regards, Bill Brennan

-----Original Message-----

From: Shannon Lipp [mailto:Shannon.Lipp@fcc.gov]  
 Sent: Monday, August 18, 2003 2:13 PM  
 To: 2emhs@memontel.net; 2nemhs@nemontel.net; Bill1@thecentergb.com; DStatz@rwhc.com; Harry.Jasper@garfieldcountypd.org; Phyllis.Peters@doh.state.fl.us; aacton@clarion.edu; abbuhl\_pchs@gpcom.net; abeachcbh@bossig.com; abek@mgd.org; abuvala@integra-telcom.com; abuvala@koxlien.com; accessfh@traceroad.net; ach500@yahoo.com; acmsinc@telapex.com; acrathburn@iroquoismemorial.com; acvdc@csnline.net; adamsont@acmh.org; adena@drewmemorial.org; admin@jmhsdawson.com; admin@sekmhc.org; aflores1@fairview.org; ahchospital@hotmail.com; akriska@catg.org; al\_sanders@doh.state.fl.us; alaible@bromenn.org; alan.okerson@trinityhealth.org; alewis@ssmhc.com; alfred.pablo@mail.ihs.gov; alice.lewis@ssmhc.com; alingle@countrycliq.com; alliance@communityalliance.org; alpert.michael@mail.ihs.gov; alqi2@highland.net; alqi@highland.net; amy.alexander@excite.com; amy.ridener@promedica.org; amy@drewmemorial.org; amyfish@galaxyispc.com; anderj01@dcor.state.ga.us; andra.bez@carle.com; andymiller@riponmedicalcenter.com; aniem.hall@mail.state.ky.us; annbakken@meritcare.com; anndrayna@lakewoodhealthsystem.com; anne@hospital.ci.forks.wa.us; anton@sythc.com; arankins@uhseast.com; ashever@lourdes-pad.org; astockto@lifeskills.com; astockton@lifeskills.com; atciceman@aol.com; aubrey.garrett@ozarkguidance.org; aurelia.taylor@access.gov; awcott@aol.com; azbillk@slrnc.org; baert@rer.jhg; bakerjb@shands.ufl.edu; bamcdp@cybrzn.com; bantainfirmar@hotmaill.com; bart@pawnee.org; bbecker@lsswis.org; bbest@uog9.uog.edu; bbolum@choctawnation.com; bbodenheimer@ricemedical.org; bbrennan@sfmtc-gi.org; bbuxton@memorialhealth.org; bcable@elwha.nsn.us; bcamp@pgi.org; bcarlson@medinfosystems.org; bcarnal@admtc.com; bcdoube@worldnet.att.net; bchadm@coldreams.com; bchancey@satilla.csb.state.ga.us; bcooper@alaska.net; bcraven@nshcorp.com; bcraven@nshcorp.org; bdossett@lhhs.org; bdowns@cpgh.org;

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**Shannon Lipp**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

WCB-02-60

**From:** Shannon Clark [sclark@acmconline.org]**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 6:28 PM**To:** Shannon Lipp**Subject:** RE Rural Health Care program - request for information**RECEIVED**

SEP 25 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

- 1 Yes
- 2 full t-1 access is 1,000 per month total
- 3 We had wireless and paid 400 for fractional t-1 but it was unreliable We send MRI and CT films thru internet now and it must be reliable connection so we changed to Alltel which is 1,000 per month for full t-1
- 4 Another problem in rural areas is proprietary phone services Alltel is the only carrier We got bids from Sprint and AT&T that were 1,800 & 2,400 because they had to pay Alltel for connection

Also the trend for billing is going thru internet Saves money on software and could really be a great thing There is no way we could depend on the internet to bill our claims Before full T-1 which we really cannot afford we were down alot causing communication to cease Unless rural access is improved or made more affordable this could greatly hurt our cash flow which is not good now If we could not bill our claims timely this would hurt us greatly Other hospitals are reaping the benefits now for on-line internet billing, as well as saving money The small rural hospitals never get a break

Thanks,  
Shannon Clark, CFO  
Ashley County Medical Center

-----Original Message-----

: Diane Law-Hsu; Regina Brown

**Subject:** Rural Health Care program - request for information

I apologize if you are receiving this message again

As you know, the FCC is currently considering changes to the universal service rural health care program. We are trying to gather more data regarding the costs associated with Internet access in rural areas

If you have answers to the following questions, please respond to this email:

Are broadband Internet access services available in your rural area?

If yes, how much do businesses pay for service (please specify broadband platform - cable modem, DSL Internet access, satellite or other wireless)?

If multiple broadband platforms are available, please provide costs for each platform, if possible.

We greatly appreciate your help. We will place all responses to the request in the record.

**Shannon I. Lipp**

Federal Communications Commission

Telecommunications Access Policy Division

202-418-7954

\*\*\* Non-Public For Internal Use Only \*\*\*

Shannon Lipp

WCB-02-60

From: Rick Tighe [tigfr@casshealth.org]  
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2003 5:36 PM  
To: Shannon Lipp  
Subject: Internet Access Costs

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SEP 25 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Shannon:

I am the CIO for a County Hospital in Atlantic, Iowa 50022. We have the following available in our area:

Dial-up	\$19.95/month
DSL	Not available
CABLE	\$79.95
WIRELESS	\$45.00 (Provider #1)
WIRELESS	\$79.95 (Provider #2)
T-1	\$1046/month

I hope this answers your questions.

Respectfully,

Rick Tighe  
(712) 243-3250 extn 3610

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## DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Shannon Lipp

WCB 02-60

**From:** Jerry Clayton [jerry.clayton@kanaweb.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2003 3:41 PM  
**To:** Shannon Lipp  
**Subject:** Re: Rural Health Care program - request for information  
 Shannon,

**RECEIVED**  
 SEP 25 2003  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of the Secretary

Greetings from Kodiak, AK. In response to your request, and from the top of my head, here is what is available in Kodiak:

Local dial-up via ISPs GCI, AT&T, PTI, KEAConnect varies from \$14.95 a month to \$26.95 a month. Transmission speeds vary from 9600 to 115,000 baud.

Broadband services are available in Kodiak through GCI via cable modem:

GCI Rates\*

\*(please note that actual transmission speeds are considerably less than advertised - the 256kbps at my house runs at 192kbps at best, and more often in the 130-150kbps range)

Broadband services to the villages of Akhiok, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Larsen Bay and Karluk may be available, but the rates are unaffordable. Access would be provided via satellite link with latency delays and the cost might be as high as \$9,600 a month for a full T1 circuit. Even with the USF subsidies, a 128kbps circuit costs over \$400 a month.

Other issues: the lack of peering agreements between carriers in Alaska is another obstacle, e.g. if you use one carrier for access, and the State of Alaska uses another carrier, then traffic between the two locations is often routed to lower 48 gateways and back up to Alaska - sometimes exceeding the router hop count and causing the connection to time out.

In addition, the Alaska Public Utilities Commission, which is charged with oversight and tariff regulation, has historically been staffed with people from the private sector Telcos in Alaska who often return to the private sector once their term expires in a revolving door environment. Kind of like the fox guarding the henhouse...

Overselling available bandwidth is a common practice in Alaska, i.e., available bandwidth may be limited to T1, but the telcos will sell that same bandwidth to multiple customers. The T1 may be there, but the availability of all of the bandwidth is determined by the current demand on the circuit.

This is my \$.02 worth. Alaska can be a very challenging environment for a Telco - limited markets, high labor costs, tough operating conditions, etc. Sometimes, quality of service may take a back seat to profitability.

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Shannon Lipp wrote

As you know, the FCC is currently considering changes to the universal service rural health care program. We are trying to gather more data regarding the costs associated with Internet access in rural areas.